

Message Text

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71
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 MCT-01 SSM-03 /086 W

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R 091600Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6897
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR EG LY SY
SUBJECT: PRESS ON LEBANON AND SYRIA

REF: CAIRO 12091

1. LEBANESE REPORTING SEPTEMBER 9 CONTINUES STRESS SYRIAN ANGLE,
WITH PARTICULAR CONDEMNATION FOR "ASAD/CHAMOUN CONSPIRACY".

2. PRESS REPORTS OF CHAMOUN VISIT TO DAMASCUS NOTED CHAMOUN
DENIAL THAT TALKS DEALT WITH SPECIFIC PLAN FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN
SYRIA AND LEBANON, BUT CONCLUDED THAT IT CERTAIN THAT MAIN
OBJECTIVE OF VISIT WAS DISCUSSION OF NEW SYRIA MILITARY OPERATIONS
AGAINST PALESTINIANS. CHAMOUN STATEMENT THAT SYRIAN FORCES
WILL REMAIN IN LEBANON AS LONG AS LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT
(I.E., HE AND FRANJIYA) DESIRE AND THAT TIES BETWEEN
LEBANON AND SYRIA WILL BE FURTHER TIGHTENED IN NEAR FUTURE
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ALSO COVERED. GEMAYEL REPORTED AS ANNOUCING THAT ONLY

SYRIA CAPABLE OF BRINGING PEACE TO LEBANON.

3. AHRAM EDITORIAL ATTACKED SYRIAN "DEMANDS" FOR ARAFAT OUSTER AND PLO MEMBERSHIP IN PROPOSED CONFEDERATION OF LEBANON, SYRIA AND JORDAN. EDITORIAL CLAIMS THAT, MEANWHILE, ISRAEL AND SYRIA PROCEEDING TOWARDS A "FINAL SETTLEMENT" WHICH WILL INCLUDE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO PERMANENT SETTLEMENTS ON GOLAN HEIGHTS. SYRIANS DEALT FURTHER BLOWS IN OFFICIAL GOE COUNTER-PUNCH TO SYRIAN-LIBYAN SWIPE AT CAIRO ON OCCASION OF ANNIVERSARY OF CAR (SEPTEL).

4. CONDEMNATION OF SYRIAN DESIRE FOR REPLACEMENT OF PLO MEMBERSHIP REPORTEDLY JOINED IN BY KHALID AL-HASAN IN INTERVIEW WITH KUWAITI AL-ANBA'. HE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT ARAFAT IS "A SYMBOL OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE" AND STRUGGLES AGAINST CONSPIRACIES SEEKING LIQUIDATION OF PALESTINIAN CAUSE.

5. SHI'A LEADER DEPARTS. LEBANESE SHI'A MUSLEIM LEADER MUSA SADR ENDED FIVE-DAY VISIT TO CAIRO SEPTEMBER 8.

6. ARAB LEAGUE SUMMIT. FONMIN FAHMY HAD SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH TUNISIAN FONMIN CHATTI AND QADDUMI SEPTEMBER 8 ON PREPARATION FOR ARAB SUMMIT.

7. COMMENT: PRESS COMMENTARY ON SYRIA ACERBIC BUT STILL FALLS SHORT OF PRE-ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL LEVEL. IN VIEW OF STRONG EGYPTIAN REACTION TO SYRIAN-LIBYAN STATEMENT, HOWEVER, NEW ESCALATION OF RHETORIC MAY TAKE PLACE.
MATTHEWS

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